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SEP 25 2006

SHIBATA, et al., 10/699,934
25 September 2006 Amendment
Responsive to 25 April 2006 Office Action

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached drawing sheets (each labeled "Replacement Sheet" within the margin header, as required) incorporate the following changes:

FIG. 6, reference numeral "5" was corrected to reference numeral "4";

FIG. 10, reference numeral " 80' " (and its leader line) has been deleted from such FIG.

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REMARKS

This paper is responsive to any paper(s) indicated above, and is responsive in any other manner indicated below.

DRAWING OBJECTIONS / DRAWING CHANGES

With regard to the "Drawings" section on page 2 of the Office Action, submitted herewith are attached drawing sheets (each labeled "Replacement Sheet" within the margin header, as required) incorporating changes as indicated within the "AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS" section of this paper. Regarding other ones of the drawing objections, appropriate amendments have been made to Applicant's specification to address specific objections. As the following is believed to obviate all the listed concerns, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings are respectfully requested. Further, acknowledgment of receipt, and approval, of the drawing changes and Replacement Sheets, are respectfully requested.

DISCLOSURE/SPECIFICATION AMENDMENT(S)

The disclosure/specification has been objected to because of the Office Action concerns listed within the "Specification" section on page 3 of the Office Action. As the disclosure/specification has been carefully reviewed and has been amended where appropriate in order to address each of the Office Action listed concerns, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure/specification are respectfully requested. The Examiner's kind amendments suggestions (within the Office Action) have been adopted.

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PENDING CLAIMS

Claims 1-19 were pending, under consideration and subjected to examination in the Office Action. Appropriate claims have been amended, canceled and/or added (without prejudice or disclaimer) in order to adjust a clarity and/or focus of Applicant's claimed invention. That is, such changes are unrelated to any prior art or scope adjustment and are simply refocused claims in which Applicant is present interested. At entry of this paper, Claims 1-4, 6-7, 10-12 and 14-20 will be pending for further consideration and examination in the application.

REWRITTEN ALLOWABLE CLAIM(S)

Claims 1-4 and 15-19 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten, as indicated within the "Allowable Subject Matter" section on page 11 of the Office Action, and at least appropriate base ones of such claims have been so rewritten. In addition, features/limitations of ones of the allowable dependent claims 1 and 16 have been incorporated into the independent claim(s) 6 and 10, respectively, thereby rendering such rewritten independent claim(s) and any claims dependent therefrom allowable. All of presently-pending claims 1-4, 6-7, 10-12 and 14-20 should be allowable as presently rewritten. Reconsideration and renewal of the allowance are respectfully requested. Applicant and the undersigned respectfully thank the Examiner for such indication of allowable subject matter.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS OBVIATED VIA CLAIM AMENDMENT

Claims 1, 4, 16 and 19 have been objected to because of the Office Action concerns listed within the "Claim Objections" section on page 3 of the Office Action.

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As amendments have been made where appropriate in order to address each of the Office Action listed concerns, reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim objection are respectfully requested.

112, 1st PARAGRAPH REJECTION OBSOLETE VIA CLAIM CANCELLATION

Claim 5 has been rejected under 112, 1st para. because of the Office Action concerns listed within the "35 USC 112" section on page 4 of the Office Action. As such rejection has been rendered obsolete by the present cancellation of the rejected claim, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

35 USC '102 AND '103 REJECTIONS - OBSOLETE VIA CLAIM CANCELLATION/AMENDMENT

All prior art rejections under 35 USC '102 and 35 USC '103 are respectfully traversed, but the present cancellation/amendment of the rejected claims (without prejudice or disclaimer) to obtain a patent (without prejudice or disclaimer) on ones of the allowable claims as quickly as possible, has rendered such rejection(s) obsolete. Thus gratuitous traversal arguments concerning the rejection(s) are omitted for brevity. Further discussions/arguments concerning such rejection(s) are left for the future if/when appropriate. Based upon the following, reconsideration and withdrawal of such rejection(s) are respectfully requested.

The above statements, or any present cancellation of claims (without prejudice or disclaimer), should not be taken as an indication or admission that the rejection was valid, or as a disclaimer of any scope or subject matter, but is merely

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use of a procedural approach to obtain a patent (without prejudice or disclaimer) on ones of the allowable claims as quickly as possible.

ALL CLAIMS IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the fact that all non-art objections/rejections have been addressed, and the fact that all remaining claims have been rewritten to include the features/limitations indicated as being allowable, it is respectfully submitted that all presently pending claims are now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance with respect to the present application is respectfully requested.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is herein invited to telephone the undersigned attorneys at the local Washington, D.C. area telephone number of 703/312-6600 for discussing any Examiner's Amendments or other suggested actions for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

It is respectfully submitted that any and all claim amendments and/or cancellations submitted within this paper and throughout prosecution of the present application are without prejudice or disclaimer. That is, any above statements, or any present amendment or cancellation of claims (all made without prejudice or disclaimer), should not be taken as an indication or admission that any objection/rejection was valid, or as a disclaimer of any scope or subject matter.

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Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, i.e., Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims listed above as presently being under consideration in the application are now in condition for allowance.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR '1.136. Authorization is herein given to charge any shortage in the fees, including extension of time fees and excess claim fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 501.43163X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Based upon all of the foregoing, allowance of all presently-pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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